

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (New) A method of lining a materials transfer chute with a renewable wear surface adapted to mitigate wear caused by the conveyance of a flowable bulk particulate material in a flowing stream of material through the chute, the method comprising the steps of:

determining, for the chute, the flow characteristics desired of the flowing stream of material in use;

locating, during the design and construction of the chute, a plurality of cascade formations that extend transversely across the interior of the chute, each cascade formation including a transversely extending tray that projects into the flow path of the material to be conveyed through the chute to define a surface facing the incoming stream of material, which surface is adapted to support a predetermined quantity of the material in use;

arranging the cascade formations to define, co-operatively between each tray and the tray upstream thereof, a dead box that extends transversely across the interior of the chute and in which the material supported on the tray surface may accumulate;

dimensioning the cascade formations such that the free edges of the trays are co-extensive with imaginary lines of curvature that connect the free edges of the trays and that extend along the intended flow path of the material to be conveyed through the chute;

locating the cascade formations such that the dead boxes accumulate, in use, no more of the material conveyed through the chute than is sufficient to form a renewable wear surface made up of accumulated material upon which conveyed material impinges in moving through the chute, the trays and the material accumulated thereon being adapted, in use, to form a composite dead box, the surface of which constitutes a wear surface that is co-extensive with the imaginary lines of curvature; and

adjusting and permanently settling, during the design and construction of the chute, the shape and size of successive cascade formations located along the intended flow path of the material to be conveyed through the chute, in dependence on the desired flow characteristics of the flowing stream of material through the chute in use.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11 in which the step of locating the cascade formations within the chute comprises the specific steps of providing the free edges of at least some of the trays with an upstanding wear lip that extends at least partially along the free edge of the tray, such that the wear lips are co-extensive with imaginary lines of curvature connecting the free edges of the trays and such that the dead boxes accumulate no more of the material conveyed through the chute than is sufficient to form, in predetermined areas of the chute, a lining of accumulated material upon which conveyed material impinges in moving through the chute to the extent that no more than parts of the wear lips are exposed to the bulk material flowing through the chute.

13. (New) The method according to either of claims 11 or 22 in which, during the design and construction of the chute, the chute is separated into one or more of a receiving section, a main chute body and a load-out section, each of which is adapted, singly or in combination, to form a wear surface in use which wear surface is adapted to modify the vertical and horizontal components of motion of the stream of material in at least part of its passage into, through or out of the receiving section, the main chute body and the load-out section.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13 which includes the specific steps, during the design and construction of a chute adapted to deposit the flowing stream of material on a receiving belt, of adapting the load-out section to form a wear surface in use, which wear surface is adapted to modify the vertical and horizontal components of motion of the flowing stream of material discharging from the load-out section at least partially to match one or more of the receiving belt travel direction and velocity.

15. (New) A materials transfer chute with a renewable wear surface adapted to mitigate wear caused by the conveyance of a flowable bulk particulate material in a flowing stream of material through the chute, the chute comprising:

a plurality of cascade formations that extend transversely across the interior of the chute, each cascade formation including a transversely extending tray that projects into the

flow path of the material to be conveyed through the chute to define a surface facing the incoming stream of material, which surface is adapted to support a predetermined quantity of the material in use;

the cascade formations being arranged to define, co-operatively between each tray and the tray upstream thereof, a dead box that extends transversely across the interior of the chute and in which the material supported on the tray surface may accumulate;

the cascade formations being dimensioned such that the free edges of the trays are co-extensive with imaginary lines of curvature that connect the free edges of the trays and that extend along the intended flow path of the material to be conveyed through the chute;

the cascade formations being located such that the dead boxes accumulate, in use, no more of the material conveyed through the chute than is sufficient to form a renewable wear surface made up of accumulated material upon which conveyed material impinges in moving through the chute, the trays and the material accumulated thereon being adapted, in use, to form a composite dead box, the surface of which constitutes a wear surface that is co-extensive with the imaginary lines of curvature; and

the shape and size of successive cascade formations located along the intended flow path of the material to be conveyed through the chute being permanently set, during the design and construction of the chute, in dependence on the desired flow characteristics of the flowing stream of material through the chute in use.

16. (New) The chute according to claim 15 in which the free edges of at least some of the trays are provided with an upstanding wear lip that extends at least partially along the free edge of the tray such that the wear lips are co-extensive with imaginary lines of curvature connecting the free edges of the trays and such that the dead boxes accumulate no more of the material conveyed through the chute than is sufficient to form, in predetermined areas of the chute, a lining of accumulated material upon which conveyed material impinges in moving through the chute to the extent that no more than parts of the wear lips are exposed to the bulk material flowing through the chute.

17. (New) The chute according to either of claims 15 or 16 which is separated into one or more of a receiving section, a main chute body and a load-out section, each of which is adapted, singly or in combination, to form a wear surface in use, which wear surface is adapted to modify the vertical and horizontal components of motion of the stream of material in at least part of its passage into, through or out of the receiving section, the main chute body and the load-out section.

18. (New) The chute according to claim 17, which is adapted to deposit the flowing stream of material on a receiving belt, the load-out section of the chute being adapted to form a wear surface in use, which wear surface is adapted to modify the vertical and horizontal components of motion of the flowing stream of material discharging from the

load-out section at least partially to match one or more of the receiving belt travel direction and velocity.

19. The method according to claim 11, wherein each of said plurality of cascade formations are continuous trays that extend transversely across the interior of the chute.

20. The chute according to claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of cascade formations are continuous trays that extend transversely across the interior of the chute.